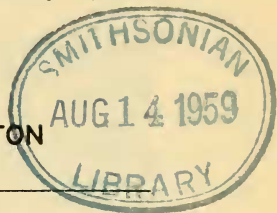


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A NEW RACE OF RED BROCKET DEER (*MAZAMA AMERICANA*) FROM COLOMBIA

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The first and only known specimen of the red brocket of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, northern Colombia, appears to represent a race new to science. It is named in honor of its collector and my very dear friend, Mr. Melbourne A. Carriker, Jr.

Mr. Carriker's career as a museum collector is one of the most remarkable in the history of tropical American ornithology, mammalogy and mallophagology. It began in Costa Rica in 1902 and has continued through the years in Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, and Colombia, with interruptions only for the study of his specialties in the museums of Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chicago. I met this extraordinary man for the first time in 1942 in the little sun-baked village of Valencia at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. We were both collecting in the same region, he birds, I mammals. Carriker was already established as dean of collectors and he had long before earned a solid reputation as an ornithologist and world authority on Mallophaga. At the time of our first meeting, Carriker was already at an age when most men retire. Nevertheless, during that year, and on into the next decade when our trails crossed again the indefatigable Carriker maintained his pace as the most active and successful bird collector in the Americas. Now, in the eightieth year of his rich and colorful life, Mr. Carriker continues to add to the thousands of Mallophaga, the nearly 100,000 birds and mammals he has already collected, and to the many scientific discoveries made known through his publications and through those of others.

The following description of the red brocket of the Sierra Nevada is a contribution to the systematic revision of all Neotropical deer being prepared by the writer. I am grateful to the authorities of the U. S. National Museum for their permission to study and describe the South American Cervidae in their charge.

***Mazama americana carrikeri*, new subspecies**

*Type*.—Subadult female, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum no. 282137; collected 26 February, 1946, by M. A. Carriker, Jr.

*Type locality*.—Mamancanaca, a high valley just south of the snow



peaks of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Department of Magdalena, northern Colombia; altitude, between 3600 and 3900 meters above sea level.

*Distribution.*—Known only from the temperate zone of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta but may range from the border zone between forest and páramo (3500-4000 meters) to tropical zone elevations in the Sierra Nevada.

*Characters.*—General color of body ochraceous tawny, shoulders and nape buffy brown, the hairs of midline of nape not reversed or forming whorls; fore and hind limbs with more brown on outer sides, ochraceous on inner; flanks and rump paler than back, the drab basal portions of the hairs showing through; belly white and defined from flanks by ochraceous orange lateral line; tail with tip missing, ochraceous tawny above and without white fringe, underside with hairs white or buff basally, buffy or ochraceous terminally; hairs of inner sides of buttocks like underside of tail; forehead, muzzle, outer side and inner border of ear brown, inner side of ear white; cheeks, throat ochraceous-buff, sides of neck and chest drab; narial and mental patches white as usual in brockets; a dark brown finely drawn mandibular patch present; external opening of preorbital gland small and hardly defined from inner canthus of eye; tarsal and metatarsal tufts present but not well defined; fore and hind hoofs short and stout, their greatest width two-thirds or more length of inner upper border. Skull not significantly different from that of other red brockets; preorbital fossa shallow, or dish-shaped, as usual in *Mazama americana*; bullae slightly smaller than average.

*Measurements of type.*—Head and body, 964 millimeters; tail, 111; height at shoulder, 520; weight, 32 lbs.; greatest length of skull, 165; zygomatic breadth, 75 (c.); braincase, 53; nasals, 50; alveolar length of upper cheek teeth, 50 (m<sup>3</sup>. not fully erupted).

*Comparisons.*—*Mazama americana sheila* Thomas of northwestern Venezuela and the Sierra de Perijá (Sierra Negra; Cúcuta), northern Colombia, differs from *carrikeri* by its more reddish, less drab, coloration of head and body, upper surface of tail with conspicuous white fringe, undersurface wholly white. *M. a. reperticia* Goldman of Panamá, and its Colombian representatives in the Departments of Bolívar and Chocó, are even more deeply reddish brown on head and body than *sheila*, the tail sharply bicolor as in *sheila*, the hairs of midline of nape partially whorled. The Andean rufous brocket, *Mazama rugna* Pucheran from the highest altitudes in the Andes inhabited by brockets, differs markedly by its dark reddish color, blackish limbs and extremely large preorbital gland and correspondingly deep preorbital fossa.

*Remarks.*—The long, thick, coarse drab pelage of the temperate zone *Mazama americana carrikeri* is of the "permanent winter" type. In marked contrast, the more brightly colored thinner haired coat of tropical zone red brockets, is of the "permanent summer" type.

The type specimen of Carriker's brocket was taken at an altitude far higher than that recorded for any other representative of *Mazama americana*. No other form of brocket is known to occur in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta proper. The lowlands surrounding the base of

the Sierra Nevada are inhabited by a race of brown brocket, *Mazama gouazoubira cita* Osgood. Thus, it appears that the red brocket of the Sierra Nevada may be completely isolated from all others of its species.

*Specimens examined.*—One, the type. A pickup skeleton of a sub-adult female (U. S. National Museum no. 281434) from the Colonia Agrícola de Caracolicito, southern slope of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, altitude, 335 meters, is probably referable to *Mazama americana carrikeri*.